

U.S.S.N. 10/521,911

-4-

GKNG 1233 PCT

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the drawings for including a projection line in between Figures 1A and 1B. The projection line has been removed in the amended drawings. The Examiner objected to the failure of reference number 28 to appear in Figure 2. A replacement drawings has been provided including this reference number. The drawings were objected to for failing to show the limitations of claim 41. Claim 41 has been cancelled by this amendment and therefore the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

Claims 33-35, 39, 40 & 45 are pending in the present application. Claims 33-35, 39, 40 & 45 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Landon (3,296,827). Claims 33, 34 & 36 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt (4,804,352). Claims 33-35, 39, 41 & 45 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ciotola (6,325,722). The Applicant traverses these rejections and seeks reconsideration in light of the attached amendments.

The cited prior art will addressed as a group as each of the cited references fails to teach a particular claimed aspect of the present invention. The present invention claims a second member having at least six sockets to which the first and third member pins attach. In both Landon and Schmidt it is clear that the sockets (if any) are positioned on the first and third members while the pins are clearly a portion of the middle second member. In any case, however, neither Landon, Schmidt, nor Ciotola teach or suggest the second member to have slots separated by flexible extensions as claimed by the present invention. The o-rings in Ciotola may cushion the pins from the first and third members, but that are not the equivalent of a flexible extension connecting the socket of the second member as claimed by the present invention. The second member of the present invention is allowed significant flexibility due to these flexible members positioned between each of the sockets as clearly seen in Figure 4. The rigid second member in Ciotola, Landon, or Schmidt does not have flexible but a rigid platform between the sockets. The cushioning o-rings inside the sockets of Ciotola fail to connect the sockets to each other as claimed nor to provide the equivalent benefit of the claimed unique structure. The claims have been amended to clarify this limitation. Reconsideration is formally requested.

U.S.S.N. 10/521,911

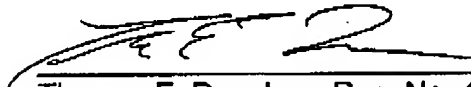
-5-

GKNG 1233 PCT

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney if any unresolved matters remain with respect to this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC



Thomas E. Donohue, Reg. No. 44,660
38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5092
(248) 433-7270 (Direct)
(248) 433-7200 (Main)
(248) 433-7274 (Fax)

Dated: October 24, 2008